THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE;

OR

Literary Miscellany.

VOL. II.] *PHILADELPHIA, June* 28, 1806. [No. 26.

The price of the Evening Fire-side is three dollars per annum.

For the Evening Fire-side.

THE PHILANTHROPIST: NO. XVII.

Philanthropy ever prompts to meliorate the condition of thoſe, whoſe ſituation or circumſtances are ſuſceptible of improvement. It not only

"Directs the wander'd, dries the widow's tears,
"The orphan guards, his ſinking ſpirits cheers,"

but it ſearches out objects of beneficence in the ſolitary wilderneſs as well as within the pale of refined ſociety. It gives me equal pleaſure to hear of the progreſs of this benign virtue, whether on the ſhores of the Ganges, or in the wilds of my own native country. If, to cheriſh one of the beſt affections of the ſoul, and to promote the general as well as the individual welfare of mankind entitle men to the favours of heaven, to whom ſhall they more rightfully appertain than to thoſe who are devoted to *philanthropy*. When I contemplate this virtue firſt budding, and expanding in a few individuals, then ripening, and diſſeminating its precious ſeeds among whole ſects and communities, I flatter myſelf with a hope that it may one day become univerſal. Much benefit has already reſulted from its preſent extenſion, and many have had reaſon to rejoice even in Aſiatic countries that, by the labours of *European* philanthropy, they have either been relieved from their fetters, diverted from the paths of error, or extricated from the trammels of ſuperſtition. I venerate thoſe worthy men who, renouncing the eaſe and comforts of domeſtic life, have condeſcended to embark as miſſionaries, among the heathen and idolatrous, in order to convert them to the chriſtian faith. Such diſintereſted undertakings do honour to our religion, and muſt be conſidered as cogent arguments in favour of its efficacy, at a time when ſo much is achieved that is derogatory to its dictates. When I caſt my eyes over theſe United States of America, I feel alternate emotions of joy and ſorrow; on the one hand I behold the wretched African, groaning under a cruel bondage, which he can hardly have a hope will terminate until death ſhall put a period to his exiſtence—while on the other a numerous claſs of virtuous citizens preſent, who are aſſiduouſly engaged in diffuſing a knowledge of the arts of peace, increaſing the comforts and conveniences of life, diſcouraging the degrading traffic in human fleſh, and promoting the civilization and well being of the aboriginal inhabitants. Theſe are objects worthy the purſuit of rational and accountable beings, and ſerve to illuſtrate the excellence of that goſpel, the doctrine of which they believe, and the precepts of which they practiſe. Thoſe actions which reſult from a principle of benevolence and good will to men, tend to harmonize the world and increaſe the general happineſs; whereas thoſe which proceed from ſelfiſhneſs, pride and avarice, are deſtructive of that portion of felicity which *might* and *ought* to be enjoyed

I have been particularly gratified in the peruſal of ſome pamphlets which lately fell into my hands containing an account of the progreſs of the civilization of the *Indians*, made within a few years paſt under the auſpices of the Quakers. As this is a work of philanthropy as recent as it is magnanimous, I think it my duty to notice it. Shall thoſe who have ſaturated the earth with the blood of thouſands of their fellow beings, be handed down from one generation to another with *eclat* and *renown*, and thoſe who have been a means of reſcuing nations from deſtruction, be ſuffered to ſink into oblivion? Forbid it humanity—forbid it juſtice!

As long ago as the year 1795, the Quakers firſt undertook, in a new way, the civilization of ſeveral of the Indian nations.* Several of them, from peculiar circumſtances, ſtood in great need of aſſiſtance. The game on which alone they depended for ſupport had ſo diminiſhed, that their reſources of ſubſiſtence were well nigh being cut off, and many of thoſe who were advanced in years, and conſequently unable to hunt, were upon the point of ſtarving with hunger, or periſhing with cold. At this alarming ſtage of Indian calamities, they were viſited by a deputation of Quakers from their annual aſſembly. A conference was held with theſe poor helpleſs people, and a correct knowledge was obtained of their ſituation.

The hunter, of all men, requires the greateſt quantity of land from whence to draw his ſubſiſtence; the huſbandman leſs than the hunter, and the gardener ſtill leſs than the huſbandman. Thoſe people who depend upon the product of the foreſt for their ſupport, may always, while they continue to multiply, calculate upon a decreaſe of their reſources; as the means of augmenting them are not within their power. Civilization enables a greater number of individuals to ſubſiſt on a given portion of ground, as well as increaſes the comforts and enjoyments of life. The Indians above alluded to, appeared to have reached that criſis, at which it was neceſſary either to migrate, purſue ſome other method of obtaining a livelihood, or periſh for want of the neceſſaries of life. But from migration, little or no benefit could be derived, as America was already as fully ſettled by hunters as it could contain:—beſides, the diſſatisfaction which ſuch a meaſure would produce, muſt neceſſarily involve them in a war with thoſe whoſe land they took poſſeſſion of. What then remained for them to do, but to renounce the foreſt for the field, and leave the purſuit of game in order to follow the plough. This was what imperious neceſſity demanded, but they had not the means of procuring the implements of huſbandry. They were poor and without experience in agricultural affairs. Aware of their ſituation, and the ſuperior advantages enjoyed by the whites, they were meditating ſome change, which might enſure them a degree of permanency

* The Oneida, Onondago, Cayugas, Shawanees, Delaware and Wyandot nations.

on their native ſoil; when, no leſs to their ſurpriſe than joy, every thing requiſite for carrying their views into effect, was opportunely furniſhed by their benefactors. Perſons qualified to inſtruct them were alſo ſent amongſt them, by whom they were taught not only huſbandry, but likewiſe ſeveral of the neceſſary mechanic arts. In ſome of theſe a proficiency has already been made little inferior to their inſtructors.—Houſes and mills have been erected, ſchools have been eſtabliſhed, and induſtry promoted. Civilization has progreſſed in an aſtoniſhing manner, and little doubt can be entertained, that it is the commencement of a reform among theſe people, which muſt hereafter have the moſt ſalutary effects. While the men are buſied in clearing the land, the women are engaged in houſewifery and domeſtic concerns:—formerly, a ſcanty ſupply of proviſion was the reward of much toil and fatigue, whereas moderate exertions and care, now furniſh with a "luxury of abundance."—The ploughſhare and the hoe, have ſucceeded the tomahawk and ſcalping-knife, and the hum of the ſpinning-wheel to the war-whoop of the ſavage.

In giving the foregoing ſketch, it is not my object to eulogize one religious ſect at the expenſe of another. I am well perſuaded, that many and various have been the attempts of other denominations of chriſtians, beſides the one above mentioned; yet, none I believe, have been crowned with equal ſucceſs. Whether the reaſon for this is to be ſought for in the different *modes* adopted to accompliſh the ſame end, or in the peculiar ſituation of theſe people at the time this reformation was propoſed, I ſhall not here undertake to determine:—it is ſufficient for the PHILANTHROPIST to remark, that, thoſe exertions have been made—and that they have contributed in a more eminent degree to the advancement of civilization, than all the theoretical diſcourſes ever delivered to them unaccompanied by the powerful eloquence of *practical philanthropy*.

Y.

For the Evening Fire-side.

[We are indebted for the following elegant ſtanzas, to the unfortunate ſtranger to whom they were addressed.]

THE EXILE.

Peace betide thee, gentle ſtranger,
Thou haſt drain'd the cup of wo;
Pain and exile, toil and danger,
Bid thy heart with grief o'erflow.

All the joys of wealth attending,
Nurs'd, in ſmiling Pleaſure's arms,
Genial climes thy youth befriending,
Saw thee riſe to manly charms.

Erſt, whene'er the rays of morning
Tipp'd the circling hills with gold,
Nature's lovely face adorning,
Bade her varied ſweets unfold;

Still, the fond paternal bleſſing
On thy feſtive moments ſmil'd;
Each domeſtic good poſſeſſing,
Virtue's heir, and fancy's child.

Fairy viſions round thee dancing,
Life, in gay perſpective charm'd;
Joys, in endleſs train advancing,
Still thy flutt'ring boſom warm'd.

Lo! the bright illuſions vaniſh'd,
As the angry deſpot frown'd;
While, from friends and country baniſh'd,
Various ills thy ſteps ſurround.

See, thy graceful limbs controling,
How the cramping fetters bind!
Floods of anguiſh o'er thee rolling,
Quite ſubdue thy ardent mind.

On thee, no fair ſiſter ſmiling,
Gilds the dungeon's cheerleſs gloom:
No kind friend, thy woes beguiling,
Whiſpering bids thee hope reſume.

See the bark, her ſails unfurling,
Thy reluctant ſteps aſcend;
While below, the waters curling,
From the gentle preſſure bend.

Lightly blow the wanton breezes,
From the dear ungrateful coaſt;
Fell deſpair thy boſom ſeizes,
When her laſt blue cliffs are loſt.

Thus when Scotia's royal beauty,
Call'd to rule her native ſoil,
Shrinking from the rugged duty,
Penſive ſought her ſea-girt iſle,

Proudly riding o'er the billows,
All her canvaſs gayly ſpread,
Stain'd with tears the downy pillow;
Sleepleſs, preſs'd the ſplendid bed.

While thy bark, at eve reposing,
Gently ſkims the level deep;
Gloomy viſions round thee cloſing,
From thy pillow baniſh ſleep.

Or, when morning's gay reflexion,
Sparkles in the wave below;
Still with tender recollection,
Fancy ſwells the tide of wo.

Ocean's billows gently heaving,
Waft to ſhore the precious freight:
Certainty, of hope bereaving,
Shews the horrors of thy fate.

Thee, nor thrones, nor power elating,
Tempt to tread the hoſtile land;
Gorgon terrors round him waiting,
Slavery, ſtalks along the ſtrand.

There, with toil and hunger waſted;
Dimm'd the luſtre of thine eye;
On thy cheek the roſes, blaſted,
Fade beneath a baleful ſky.

Yet, tho' ſorrowing, and forſaken,
To thy woes no reſpite given;
Bid thy fainting hopes awaken,
Let the mourner truſt in heav'n.

Tho' aſſail'd by ills unnumber'd,
Torn from freedom, joy and love;
Still, thoſe eyes which never ſlumber'd
Note each ſuff'ring from above.

When, her nobler powers maturing,
And in ſorrow's ſchool refin'd,
Deaf to Pleaſure's voice alluring,
Soars ſerene the unconquer'd mind;

When, no more for aid depending
On inferior human ties,
Piety, thy ſoul befriending,
Points the Pilgrim to the ſkies.

Then thy Guardian Angel, ſmiling,
Shall arreſt the oppreſſor's hand:
And his barbarous malice foiling,
Guide thee to thy native land.

Ah beware! when vanquiſh'd Pleaſure
Spreads again her rainbow wings;
When thy heart, in frolic meaſure,
Dances while the Syren ſings;

Still, in proſperous ſcenes retaining
Wealth, by ſorrow's hand ſupplied,
Each low, ſenſual joy diſdaining,
Own a ſoul, to heav'n allied;

In whoſe pure receſſes beaming,
Wiſdom ſheds a ſacred ray;
Own a ſoul, where radiant virtue,
Pours her own celeſtial Day.

ROLAND.

FOR THE EVENING FIRE-SIDE.

Remarks on Drunkenneſs.

The ſcandalous abuſe of ſtrong drink this day in our country, muſt be a matter of concern to every philanthropic obſerver. How frequently do we ſee men reduced by the exceſſive uſe of ſpirituous liquors from a ſtate of reſpectability to abject degradation! It often happens that men of the firſt abilities for uſefulneſs, become by this means, worthleſs members of ſociety, and inſtead of occupying the ſtation for which they ſeem to have been deſigned they are almoſt utterly incapacitated for doing any good for themſelves or others and their families are reduced to a ſituation truly deplorable. Whilſt all the money the infamous huſband can obtain is laid out for rum and whiſkey, and his time is ſpent than *idly* ſpent in the company of drunkards; what muſt be the feelings of a virtuous female, whom, "full confident in man's virtue has placed under his

d protection." The reaſonable expecta-
ns which ſhe had formed of living with
mfort and tranquillity are defeated, her
pes diſappointed, ſhe finds herſelf ſub-
ted to the fooliſh caprice of an inebriat-
wretch, whoſe breaſt retains no ſparks
humanity or tenderneſs; and inſult and
ury are added to cruel neglect. Thus
cumſtanced how little remains to her of
t which "makes life deſirable." The
rt of ſuch a man muſt have become a
nger to every feeling ſenſation, ere he
ld ſo evilly reward the unreſerved reli-
e and love of an amiable female: he is
rſe than a barbarian. Take now a view
the children of a drunkard: ſee them
pleſs and in want of the neceſſaries of
; ſee their tender minds almoſt indelibly
reſſed with pernicious ideas, through
influence of example and precept ex-
dingly corrupted. See ſome of them
forth in the world wretched monuments
the folly of their father, who thus en-
s miſery on his poſterity. Nor are the
er connexions of ſuch a man, exempted
n the unhappineſs which he diffuſes.
y behold with ſorrow the devaſtation
is intemperance, and regret that one,
o might have been the delight of his
uaintance, now ſunk into the groſſeſt
ravity; is not only loſt, but is alſo a
ance to ſociety. Obſerve the miſerable
ct himſelf; he is for a little while gra-
d with the taſte of the liquor, and his
nal ſpirits feel enlivened by its opera-
; but view the effect;—ere long he is
pletely intoxicated, his faculties are
rganized, he no longer conducts like a
nal being; but frequently commits
cious acts of wickedneſs. After a-
e he regains the partial uſe of his rea-
he feels languid, and the moſt painful
ctions accompany a retroſpection of his
ality. He ſometimes reſolves on amend-
, but ere long he again relapſes, and
takes his ſwing in this iniquity. He
us unqualified for a proper attention
ther temporal or religious concerns;
makes no proviſion for the well-being
r of his body or his ſoul.

aught with evils ſo numerous, every
in his right mind muſt acknowledge,
drunkenneſs is an abomination in our
and that it behoves all good members
e community, to endeavour to ſuppreſs
Would it not be better that the laws
h we have againſt this vice, were more
ently put in operation againſt caſes of
iety? And would it not be uſeful if
ad ſuch regulations as prevail in ſome
e eaſtern States? I am told that when a man of property there, practices drinking to exceſs, the law requires that certain officers take excluſive charge of his poſſeſſions, and uſe them in the beſt manner for the benefit of the owner and his family. By this means the helpleſs wife and children would be provided for, and very probably many drunkards might be reclaimed.

But there are caſes leſs notorious, which it would be impracticable to effect by the compulſive powers of the law, ſuch as private tipplers and dram drinkers. I ſee no other way of a reformation being effected among theſe, than by our endeavouring to convince their underſtandings of the impropriety and pernicious conſequences of ſuch a courſe of life. Habitual drunkards I apprehend have generally become too irreſolute, or too callous for this method to have any influence with them; but ſuch as are only commencing their career in that way, ſtill retain full power of reaſon, and may perhaps, at proper times, be effectually perſuaded to "forſake the way of fools, and walk in the way of underſtanding"

The ſeaſon is now at hand in which it has been uſual for farmers and their labourers to make great uſe of theſe ſtrong liquors. If ſome of them were told that theſe liquors were altogether unneceſſary on ſuch occaſions, they would not be willing to believe it. But it is a well atteſted fact that the experience of many has placed it beyond a doubt. From the numerous inſtances that might be adduced, I ſhall ſelect one which was publiſhed in a periodical miſcellany a few years back. "A reputable farmer, of Byberry, in Philadelphia county, who declared he would give ſix-pence a day to his reapers in lieu of rum or whiſkey, engaged ſo many hands by the offer, that they cut down his whole crop of wheat, which conſiſted of thirty-ſix acres, in one day. They drank nothing but home-made beer and cider, paſſed the day in harmony, and all went home perfectly ſatisfied with themſelves and their employer."

If more of the farmers were to try a ſimilar experiment, I believe drunkenneſs would not ſo often be obſerved in the harveſt field: but there would be a behaviour, more becoming grateful receivers of theſe temporal favours.

T——R.

June 21ſt.

For the Evening Fire-ſide.

Meſſrs. Editors.

Permit me to offer a few more obſervations on the cultivation of the dead languages, in conformity to my intention announced in my laſt eſſay. It is ſaid that an acquaintance with the claſſics increaſes our knowledge of our own language. But the reſult of obſervation does not ſeem to corroborate the aſſertion. On the contrary, the cultivation of thoſe languages, would ſeem to be the *greateſt obſtruction* to the perfection of the Engliſh, by rendering it ſtiff and intricate. Nor is the awkward and pompous expreſſions of claſſical ſcholars all; they frequently tranſgreſs the rules of grammar. Impreſſed with an idea, that by their acquaintance with the claſſics they are poſſeſſed of a ſufficient knowledge of the Engliſh, they are led to regard it as an inferior tongue, and beneath their ſtudy. Or, releaſed from the confinement of ſchools, and already tired with the complicate and unintereſting ſtudies of the dead languages, they cannot prevail upon themſelves to ſtudy any other. But, had their attention been directed to the ſtudy and cultivation of the Engliſh tongue, during half the number of years laviſhed upon the Latin and Greek, they might have become maſters of that language in which they are daily converſant. But this is not all: the acquiſition of words leſſens the ability of the mind to acquire ideas.

As the mind never with equal power embraces two objects at once, it is evident, in the ſtudy of the claſſics, that more attention muſt be paid to the acquirement of words, which is the principal aim, than to the ideas for which they ſtand: this by long cuſtom becomes habitual, and renders the acquirement of ideas at once laborious and difficult. The FIRE-SIDE TALKER in your 19th No. has made ſome remarks on the languages, which do not appear to me to be productive of the effect he intended. "A man (ſays he) who can think and converſe in ſeveral poliſhed languages, is a kind of diſtinct being in every one of them. He multiplies his exiſtence in a manner (ſince thinking is a mode of exiſtence) as often as he adds the knowledge of a new language to his former acquiſitions." Fearing I do not underſtand his meaning, I ſhall forbear making any comments on the above quotation, hoping he will be ſo good as to favour us with an explanation. But when he ſays "as if every day's diſcoveries in ſcience did not increaſe the neceſſity for diligence in ſtudy," I think his meaning is perfectly comprehenſible; nor ſhall I deny the truth of the poſition: but I think it illanſwers the purpoſe he intended. I grant, the many great and uſeful diſcoveries in ſcience, call loudly for diligence in ſtudy; but

not in the ſtudy of the dead languages; which could by no means increaſe our knowledge of modern diſcoveries. On the contrary there is the greater neceſſity for renouncing them altogether; and the more ſo, as the mind is thereby left to purſue the more uſeful as well as ornamental ſtudies, without any diminution of its ability to acquire them.

PROBE.

For the Evening Fire-side.

THE GLEANER: NO. I.

"Behold I come, and to your view,
"Exhibit ancient things and new."

It is uſual when a perſon commences a ſeries of eſſays for the uſe of the public, to acquaint his readers with the manner in which he deſigns to entertain them. In conformity to this cuſtom, the GLEANER feels himſelf obliged to premiſe, that the lucubrations he is about to offer will be conſonant with his character; they will not indeed be altogether originality of matter; but the ſource from whence he makes ſelections, being very obſcure, he believes that to many readers the matter thus obtained, will be as good as new. Of ſuch materials, however, no eſſay ſhall altogether conſiſt: a part at leaſt of each number will be entirely original. To endeavour to hold up to view the inconſiſtency of folly with the nobility of rational creatures. To exalt virtue to that dignified eminence which becomes its divine origin, and to perſuade men to conduct themſelves conformably to the dictates of wiſdom, would ſurely be a laudable effort. Such is the deſign of the GLEANER; how well he may ſucceed in the undertaking, his readers will be better capacitated for judging than himſelf. Be it as it may in this reſpect, one uniform conſolation will attend a retroſpection,—"that he meant well."

There may be objections raiſed againſt this compound kind of writing by ſome; but were they to compare many of the new publications of our day with thoſe of prior date, they would diſcover that leſs new matter is produced than on a curſory view they might have imagined. Thus the GLEANER will be found undiſguiſed in the ſame road which many other ſcribblers have travelled; and he truſts that the imputation of plagiariſm will be precluded by his candor.

Q.

For the Evening Fire-side.

A SUMMER SHOWER.

Wide o'er the ſtreaming earth the orb of day,
In flaming torrents pours his potent ray;
Straight from their deep recesses iſſuing forth,
The vapoury legions ſpread around the earth;
Upborne on airy wings from western skies,
The dark'ning gloom ſwift o'er the landſcape flies;
Rous'd by the coming ſtorm a hopeful train,
From neighbouring taverns ſcour across the plain;
On rapid wheels they roll 'midſt clouds of duſt,
Freighted with wine, before the hurrying guſt.
Now lightning's glare thro' all the embattled ſky,
Dread thunders roll and oaths in volleys fly;
The rain deſcends and o'er the bending groves;
The impetuous wind in wild confuſion roves;
With ſpeed renew'd the nodding heroes run,
But ſtrive in vain the pelting ſtorm to ſhun.
Loud thunders chaſe them in their flying courſe,
And oaths re-echo with redoubled force,
'Till quench'd the inward flame and ſoak'd with rain,
They gladly reach their native homes again.
There in retirement's ſhades they may retrace
Their valorous deeds—how with empurpled face,
'Midſt wine and clouds of ſmoke they paſs'd the day,
And ſung with jovial glee their cares away:
While far remov'd their hungry children's cries,
Could not diſturb their ſoul-enchanting joys.
Oh wine! thou ſov'reign balm of our frail race!
By thee inſpir'd, with round, unthinking face.
Thy votaries run thro' pleaſure's flow'ry maze,
Gay folly's lamp her dazzling flame diſplays,
And mis'ry marks their ſwift, declining days.
Grim evening's ſhade now o'er the proſpect flies,
And in ſoft ſlumbers ſhut our heroes' eyes;
Snoring they lie, nor longer hear, with rage,
The elements in battle fierce engage.
But lo! bright Lucifer up eaſtern ſkies,
Before the orb of day refulgent, flies;
The op'ning morn diſplays her radiant light,
And drives to weſtern lands the ſhades of night.
Obedient to the call again they wake,
And from the chains of ſleep their ſenſes ſhake;
Their aching limbs in labour they employ,
And days of grief ſucceed to hours of joy.

For the Evening Fire-side.

Meſſrs. Editors,

Rather more than a year ago the following circular letter, cenſuring the *extravagance of female dreſs*, appeared in one of the Canton of Switzerland and was addreſſed by the government to all the lieutenants. As it is improbable that a people hitherto ſo remarkable as the *Swiſs* for their ſimplicity, ſhould have exceeded the bounds of *moderation* as much as ſome of the females of the United States, I thought it would not be improper to copy this article in order to ſhew in what point of view it was beheld by the judicious part of this Canton, and with what alarm they ſaw their females renouncing the modes and manners, which had diſtinguiſhed their anceſtors, for the adoption of thoſe, which, ſay they, contribute to the contamination of public morality.

If you think any benefit can reſult from the publication of what I here offer to you it is at your ſervice; for my own part I have but little hopes of any, for the *goddeſs of faſhion* holds ſuch undiſputed empire over the hearts and minds of ſo large a portion of the female world, that it ſeems as though little chance remains of exciting an oppoſition againſt her.

D.

FEMALE DRESS.

"The advocate and leſſer Council of the Canton of Fribourgh ſee, with great diſpleaſure, that, in ſome parts of our Canton the fair ſex have renounced morality, which is their brighteſt ornament, and introduced and adopted thoſe coſtumes, which are foreign from our manners, and contrary to public decency. Thoſe faſhions, extremely fooliſh and ridiculous, muſt inevitably make a dangerous impreſſion on a people who have not yet entirely renounced the manners which diſtinguiſhed their anceſtors. They contribute to the contamination of public morality.

"Adopted with blind enthuſiaſm, and followed with fury by the pleaſure-loving crowd, what fatal effects may not be produced to thoſe whoſe education being neglected, are but feebly ſecured againſt the allurements of vice. We tremble for the moment when morality ſhall diſappear!

"This public ſcandal has ſo much excited the attention of eccleſiaſtical authority that they have addreſſed us to ſolicit our attention to repreſs, by the moſt efficacious means, this growing evil. Theſe means will be without effect, ſo long as thoſe who in the interior of their families; thoſe to whom God and nature have given the moſt ſacred duties of inculcating virtue, neglect to ſeriouſly reform themſelves. A general remedy muſt diſcover the exiſtence of the evil, the knowledge of which is always dangerous and obnoxious to thoſe who may be already ignorant of it; even the publicity of it is a ſcandal which ought to be avoided.

"To retain as much as poſſible ſimplicity of manners in our Canton, and to avoid ſuch threatening inconveniences, it appears to us, that the only efficacious means conſiſt in the timely interference of the Tribunals of Morals, conſequently the Juſtices of Peace, as Preſidents of theſe Tribunals

will receive from them the following inſtructions :

" If a perſon of the female ſex dreſs in ſuch a manner as to offend decency and morality, the Juſtice of the Peace, as Preſident of the Tribunal of Manners, muſt addreſs the parents, guardians, or huſbands, to engage them to exert that power which is given to them by nature, and the laws, to bring the perſon back to the paths of propriety and prudence, and appriſe them, that if they ſtill continue refractory, they muſt cite them before the Tribunal of Morals.

" And if theſe repreſentations are ineffectual, or if the weakneſs of parents, guardians, or huſbands, afford no hope of amendment, and that the exhortations of the Juſtices of Peace ſhould prove of no effect, then ſhall theſe menaces be executed, and ſuch contaminated women ſhall be made to appear before the Tribunal of Manners, which will cenſure them for their irreligious and immoral conduct, exhort them to fulfil their duties, and repreſent to them with energy, how ridiculous and indecent is that dreſs, which, beſides the ſcandal that it occaſions, expoſes a virtuous woman to the danger of being confounded in the public eyes with thoſe unhappy females who juſtly merit general contempt."

[*La Clef du Cabinet.*]

For the Evening Fire-side.

ON DEATH.

There is no ſubject more hackneyed than this, therefore it is no wonder if this eſſay on it ſhould contain thread-bare ſentiments. No wonder, if after I have done with it, I have been only ſaying in ſubſtance the ſame that others have ſaid on it a thouſand times before me. True it is, that thouſands of pens have been employed on it—pens which with the hands that wielded them have long ſince been confounded with their common parent-duſt ; yet, another pen and another hand employed on the ſame intereſting theme, are ſpeedily to return to the embraces of the ſame parent.

The unperverted would not heſitate to pronounce this amongſt the ſubjects beſt calculated to rouſe the keen attention of the moſt liſtleſs ; but alas ! how much have we not to deplore the reverſe ? on the contrary it almoſt univerſally acts as an opiate, and diſpoſes more to ſtupify than to awaken. I would anxiouſly enquire, why this *ſad* infatuation ? Is it that the minds of my fellow mortals have become *enough* brutalized to perſuade each individual that *he* is the only happy being exempted from the appalling ſentence " Thou ſhalt ſurely die ?" Is it, that daily mementos teſtify not to the infalliable truth, that we ſhall all " drink of that cup ?" Or is it that each is gravely waiting to receive a formal intimation of the moment which uſhers him into the immediate preſence of his judge ? Ah no ! my enquiries have hitherto been unavailing. No one is ſo ſtupid as to think he ſhall not die, ſince no day paſſes which proves not to each one his affinity to that fleſh which " is as graſs and the flowers of the graſs." There is no word of our language written in ſuch glaring characters, ſo *interwoven* with every object which ſurrounds us, as the ſimple monoſyllable, death. Every inſpiration of our breath is accompanied with the deſtruction of a living creature ; every ſtep that we take, marks the bounds of the exiſtence of ſome hapleſs animal : literally, we *breathe* ſlaughter, and mark our ſteps with blood-ſhed. Behold yonder ſuit of ruſty armour ! its bearer was " a mighty man of great valour," it weighed him down in the fields of battle as his ſtrength fled through the gaping wounds which the ignus fatu of *honour* had *honoured* him with. Behold yonder ſuit of tinſel ; *it* garniſhed the animated carcaſs of a beau—ah it is ruſting too : ſad precurſor of its haſty aſſimilation to the little heap of duſt which once exulted in its glare of finery ! See that weather beaten oak, that pride of our foreſts ; it too is diveſted of its gay trappings, and has yielded its laſt vegetable breath after a life of two centuries. Contraſted with this giant of the vegetable world, drooped hard by the blighted ſtock of graſs which has reached the term of its exiſtence at the end of two months from its birth !

Death is the burden of the gloomy dirge of univerſal nature—the duſt that flies preſents it to our viſion—the paſſing gale ſighs it in our ears—the fallen leaves of autumn *rattle* it aloud as we unreflectingly trample them under our feet—the graves that crowd our church yards more clamorous than all, theſe evidences of mortality together, plainly evince to us that " here we have no abiding city."

Thus it appears with ſufficient evidence, that the law which has paſſed ſentence of death on all, admits of no exceptions ; ſince its inflictions extend even to the vegetable world—yes, and to the world itſelf from which animal and vegetable life alike derive their ſtrength and ſuſtenance.

The extreme uncertainty of the awful moment of ſeparation from the body, is not leſs palpable than that *all* ſhall die. The new born infant has ſcarce ſeen the world but to take leave of it—and in ſhort, every grade of exiſtence from infancy to manhood and thence to the *ſecond* childhood, has yielded this great tribute of nature. Youth has rotted off his thread of exiſtence in the corroding bowl of pleaſure. Middle age cuts his in twain with the ſhears of ambition and avarice. The hoary ſenſualiſt has *parted* his at the inſtant in which he was gravely deviſing means to add a few more wretched moons to its duration.

Again therefore I would aſk, why that *ſang froid* which torpifies the ſoul to a realization of its diſunion with the body ? May it not be a ſad effect of mere habitude ? The veteran engages coolly in the ſtrife of death, and meets it in all its forms, with indifference. The grey-headed aſſaſſin views its conflicts on the gallows with an unhappy comrade, as a thing conſequent to his profeſſion. The ſexton covers his fellow man with as much *feeling* as the ſkilful anatomiſt afterwards diſſects him, or as the phyſician had juſt before pronounced him incurable. The executioner ties the knot with an air which announces the little intereſt he feels in the ſituation of the wretched delinquent on whom he is exerciſing his part. Each of us views the funeral proceſſion of a departed brother with that vacant ſtare of curioſity which ſeldom more than prompts us to aſk " who's dead ?"

It is not a *ſmall* " evil under the ſun"—it is not a *little* to be lamented, that events which appear ſo well calculated to diſturb the fatal repoſe of hapleſs fallen man, ſhould produce effects ſo awfully the reverſe. This however is the truth, as the facts of every day evince ; and thus will it be with every infatuated mortal, until the arm of faith ſhall lift the veil which conceals from him a view of that " undiſcovered country from whoſe bourn no traveller returns ;" until the eye of faith ſhall ſcrutinize its ſcenes of myſtery. Then and then only ſhall thoſe harpies dullneſs, indifference, and forgetfulneſs, wing their flight " as an eagle towards heaven." Then with what avidity ſhall liberated man drink in the ſounds of of heavenly inſtruction. Then is he aſſailed with effect by the ſtartling truth " that it is appointed unto *all* men *once* to die, *and after that the judgment.*" Then too he is earneſt in the important enquiry " What ſhall I do to be ſaved ?" He will no longer with the beſotted ſenſualiſt " whoſe ear is dull of hearing," " cry peace to himſelf when there is no peace." He will reverſe the glaſs through which he formerly beheld the hour of diſſolution as preſent with every body

but himself. He will now see death as his nearest neighbour—contemplating his approaches with cheerfulness, and meeting the monster's "ghastly smile" he will joyfully triumph in the vivifying assurance that "death shall be swallowed up in victory!" Then in the concluding scene of mortality shall his tremulous lips and faltering tongue exclaim "blessed be God who giveth me the victory through my Lord Jesus Christ."

RUMINATOR.

Somerset County, N. J.
June 1st, 1806.

Selected for the Evening Fire-side.

TO AN EARLY PRIMROSE.

Written by Henry Kirke Nottingham, at the age of 13.

Mild offspring of a dark and sullen sire!
Whose modest form, so delicately fine
Was nurs'd in whirling storms,
And cradled in the winds.

Thee, when young Spring first question'd Winter's sway,
And dar'd the sturdy blust'rer to the fight!
Thee, on this bank he threw—
To mark his victory.

In this low vale, the promise of the year,
Serene thou openest to the nipping gale,
Unnoticed alone—
Thy tender elegance.

So Virtue blooms, brought forth amid the storms
Of chill adversity, in some low walk
Of life, she rears her head!
Obscure and unobserv'd.

While every bleaching breeze that on her blows,
Chastens her spotless purity of breast,
And hardens her to bear,
Serene, the ills of life.

On the analogy between Animals and Vegetables.

The productions of nature ascend by gradual and imperceptible steps. Those classes which, at first sight, appear to be so widely removed, are found, upon a closer examination, to be separated by no precise or determinate boundary. In every circumstance, plants to a certain degree, resemble animals. The structure and irritability of plants, and the power of performing certain motion, are in some measure common to both. The delicate shrink of the *Sensitive Plant* has long been the subject of wonder and surprise. The *Moving Plant*, a native of the East Indies, is affected by the mere impulse of the solar rays: during the night, or in cold or cloudy weather, it is still and torpid; but when the sun shines, it is enlivened and moves its leaves briskly in all directions. *The Venus's Flytrap*, a natural production of South Carolina, is a plant of a very singular kind: its leaves are furnished with a double row of prickles, with which it seizes and transfixes the small insects that approach it. The *Sleep of Plants* is performed variously, and in a manner the best adapted to their particular structure. The leaves of the *Tamarind*-Tree contract round the tender fruit, and protect it from the nocturnal cold. The leaves of the *Chick weed*, the *Swallowwort*, &c. are disposed in parts, and during the night they rise, join at the top, and conceal the flowers. The leaves of the *Indian Mallow*, the *Ayenia*, and the *Tree Primrose*, are placed alternately: though horizontal, or even inclining in a downward direction during the day, they rise at the approach of night, and embrace the stem. In the same manner the *Night Shade* and the *Egyptian Vetch* erect their leaves during the night. The young buds of the *White Lupine* are protected by the pendulous state of the leaves. Plants have a singular power of accommodating themselves to their situation, and of recovering their original position. In some instances they seem to be actuated by the principle of choice, and almost capable of reflexion. When trees grow near a ditch, the roots which proceed in a direction that would necessarily bring them into the open air, instead of continuing their noxious progress, sink below the level of the ditch. or whatever excavation happens to be in their way, then shoot across and regain the soil on the opposite side. When the root is uncovered, without exposing it to much heat, and a wet sponge is placed near it, but in a different direction from that in which the root is proceeding, in a short time the root turns towards the sponge. In this manner the directions of the roots may be varied at pleasure. All plants make the strongest efforts towards attaining a perpendicular position, by inclining, turning, and even twisting their stems and branches to escape from darkness and shade, and to procure the influence of the sun. Place a wet sponge under the leaves of a tree, they soon bend downwards, and endeavour to apply their interior surfaces to the sponge. If a vessel of water be placed within six inches of a growing cucumber, in twenty-four hours the cucumber alters the direction of its branches, bends either to the right or to the left, and never stops till it comes in contact with the water. When a pole is placed at a considerable distance from an unsupported vine, the branches of which are proceeding in a contrary direction from that of the pole, in a short time it alters its course, and stops not in its horizontal progress till it clings round the pole.

[*Charleston Courier.*]

Ode to the Evening Star.

O Venus! lovely evening-star,
Diffusing precious light afar!
How much superior is thy fame,
To *hers* from whom thou tak'st thy name:
She leadeth hapless man astray—
Thou lightest wanderers on their way.

The mantle of the dark was spread,
The tempest roared around my head,
As wearied pensive and alone
Through dreary wilds I journey'd on;
Imploring for some gentle ray,
To light a wanderer on his way:

When soon, with gladness and surprise,
I saw her deck the western skies;
Cheering the dismal gloom of night,
With greatful friendly mod'rate light;
Perfect as all the glare of day,
To light a wanderer on his way.

Let others spend their time in vain,
And give intemperance the rein;
Nor in their mirthful feasts controul,
The banquet and the midnight bowl:
But those impure delights obey,
Which but misleads the wanderer's way.

To them their pleasure I resign,
Be piety and reason mine:
With those no other light we need,
These best, Man's stated journey lead;
To that cold tomb of human clay,
Where ends the wanderer's earthly way.

C.

BIBLICAL CRITICISM.

On a Translation of the New Testament, from the original Greek, by Nathaniel Scarlett.

[FROM A LONDON REVIEW.]

Many emandations in this translation consist not so much of whole passages as of single words; yet they are of importance to those who desire to understand the scripture. A small alteration we notice, which makes a material change in the meaning, Rom. vii. 1.

Common Translation.—The law hath dominion over a man as long as *he* liveth.

Scarlett's Translation.—The law hath dominion over a man as long as *it* liveth.

The argument introduced by the metaphor of the marriage bond, verse 1—7, confirms the propriety of a translator's in-

ſerting the ſupplement *it*, and not *he*. Again, Matt. xxvi. 45—47.

Common Tranſlation.—Sleep on now and take your reſt: behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hand of ſinners. Riſe, let us be going: behold he is at hand that doth betray me.

Scarlett's Tranſlation.—Do ye ſleep ſtill, and take your reſt? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of wicked *men*. Riſe, let us be going: lo! the traitor is at hand.

By the common tranſlation our Lord deſires his diſciples to *ſleep on and take their reſt*: yet at the ſame moment of time deſires them to *riſe and be going*: whereas he was now returning the third time, and finding them aſleep, in a tone of aſtoniſhment (which alſo was a gentle rebuke) ſaith, "Do ye ſleep ſtill, and take your reſt? Riſe, let us be going: lo! the traitor is at hand, And while he was ſpeaking, lo! Judas came, and with him a great multitude with ſwords and clubs."

Much is due to the tranſlators of our common tranſlation; but as nearly 200 years have elapſed, ſome words in that tranſlation are now become obſolete; and the fund of biblical knowledge being now greatly increaſed, it is reaſonable that Chriſtians ſhould avail themſelves of every help to enable them to underſtand the will of God. In this point of view we conſider the preſent work to be praiſe-worthy, and hope every exertion in ſo laudable an undertaking will meet with due encouragement.

THE GREAT ECLIPSE

As it appeared at Boſton.

On Monday laſt, 16th inſt. the inhabitants of Boſton were ſpectators of one of the moſt wonderful and curious appearances which have been exhibited in the Heavens; an event calculated to rouze the attention, and excite the admiration of every intelligent being.—If angels had been in the habit of viſiting this nether world, we juſtly might have expected them on this tranſporting occaſion. The mind is enraptured at the recollection of the event; and in reſpection of the ſcene it is loſt in an inexpreſſible charm.

The morning was uncommonly pleaſant; the ſun aroſe in brilliant aſpect; and the colour of the ſky was almoſt as remarkable as the eclipſe itſelf. Not a cloud was to be ſeen; nor the leaſt obſtacle intervened to interrupt the beauty of the day; and nature ſeemed to prepare herſelf for the wonderful tranſaction.

I ſhall not undertake to give a perfect deſcription of this remarkable Eclipſe, at the time of *Total Darkneſs*, for that is impoſſible; and in the attempt I ſhould be loſt in my own inſufficiency. I ſhall only relate thoſe circumſtances which attended the eclipſe from the commencement to its termination.

From the *beginning* to the time of *Total Darkneſs*, there was a gradual diminution of light; a chill was felt in the air, and ſolemnity and ſilence marked the progreſs of the ſcene. At the approach of *Darkneſs*, the birds, ſenſible of the tranſition, fluttered from place to place; and the colouring and aſpect of things, were that of gloom and obſcurity. At the time, the thermometer fell 9 or 10 degrees; but the mercury in the barometer mounted to a great altitude, indicating a clear and tranſparent ſky.—Whilſt the eclipe was progreſſing to its centre, the moon was frequently examined by teleſcopes; and the inequalities of her edge were plainly diſcernable, reſembling the roughneſs of an orange. This inequality was eaſily to be diſtinguiſhed, as there was a great contraſt between the dark body of the moon, and the brilliant orb of the ſun.

For a few moments before the *total* diſappearance of the ſun, to the inſtant of *Total Darkneſs*, there was a greater tranſition, than for any twenty minutes during the progreſs of the eclipſe. This was perfectly agreeable to expectation; for whilſt there were the ſmalleſt remains of the ſun, there was a conſiderable quantity of light; but the very inſtant he diſappeared, there was an immediate and wonderful change.

There is a curious circumſtance which uſually attends total eclipſes of the ſun, and that is, the eaſe with which his light may be viewed a few minutes before he diſappears; but his firſt emerging beam on the weſterly ſide, is an inſupportable inconvenience.—The cauſe of this muſt be, that during the eclipſe, the pupils of the eye become contracted by gazing at a brilliant object; but at the time of *Total Darkneſs*, they expand to their uſual dimenſions. In conſequence of which the very moment the ſun reappears the eye receives a greater portion of light than in the firſt inſtance. We may alſo underſtand, that perſons who looked through teleſcopes, could not ſee as many ſtars at the time of *Darkneſs* as thoſe who only took an occaſional view of the ſun; becauſe the ſtrong light of the ſun renders the eye inſenſible to the weaker impreſſions of the ſtars.

At the time of *Total Darkneſs*, there was an appearance of brilliant flaſhes of ſolar light upon the marginal parts of the moon, as if the light of the ſun had been inflected, by the edge and atmoſphere of the moon, which was undoubtedly the caſe. Theſe bright ſtreaks, I believe, were not expected by people in general; nor was the *obſcurity* ſo great as had been anticipated.—There was alſo a very black ſpot in the centre of the moon's diſc, apparently about the ſize of a dollar; but towards her edge the appearances were brighter. The figure and dimenſions of objects were diſcernable within moderate diſtances; but their colouring was entirely loſt. Within doors the darkneſs was almoſt equal to midnight.

After the diſappearance of the ſun, many of the ſtars of the firmament were ſeen in various directions. The planet *Venus* was diſcovered for fifteen minutes before the middle of the eclipſe; but the ſtars could not be diſtinguiſhed until after the ſun had diſappeared.

Before the commencement of *Total Darkneſs* the progreſs of the ſhadow was plainly ſeen in its paſſage from Albany to Boſton. The Weſtern ſky, at this moment, was exceſſively black, but in the Eaſt there was a degree of brilliancy. This appearance continued until the centre of the ſhadow had paſſed us, when the contrary took place; the darkneſs then began to obſcure the Eaſtern horizon, and a light broke forth in the Weſt. The figure and direction of the *Dark Shadow* were eaſily to be diſcovered in the higher regions of the earth's atmoſphere, and reſembled a ſhower of rain, at a diſtance, but much darker. At the moment the centre of the ſhade paſſed us, there was a circle of horizontal light whoſe breadth, from the horizon, was about 10 degrees. This bright circle ſeemed to be the limit of the dark ſhade. Theſe appearances could be ſeen only by perſons who were in an elevated ſituation.

I have now related the principal appearances which attended the exhibition of this *wonderful eclipſe:* Its whole progreſs was attended with every circumſtance which could render it a delightful and ſingular phenomenon; and we may venture to predict, that the preſent generation of New-England, will never again be ſpectators of ſo glorious a ſcene.

[*Boſton Centinel.*]

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE.

FOREIGN.—A gentleman informs us that, in a converſation he had with Mr. Munroe, juſt before he left London, our Minister men-

tioned that he had reason to believe that the differences between Great Britain and the U. States will soon be advantageously settled.

A new treaty has been ratified betwen Russia and the Ottoman Porte.

The Sweedish troops, says the London Courier, are evacuating Lunenburgh and retiring to Swedish Pomerania, which, it is supposed, the Prussians will immediately invade.

If the accounts from different parts of the Continent may be relied upon, the Russians have actually evacuated Ragusa and Cataro, in consequence of which, the French have discontinued the works which they were constructing at Brannau, and the Divisions of Marshal Ney and Soult have commenced their march.

A slight skirmish has taken place between the Swedes and Prussians near Ratzeburgh, the result of which was, that the former being greatly inferior in number, were compelled to retire.

Hostilities having thus commenced between these two powers, his Swedish majesty has issued orders for a general embargo on all Prussian vessels in his harbours.

The insignificant Fortress of Gaesa still holds out, although a French army of 24,000 men, with a formidable Train of Artillery, are employed in the Siege. The garrison consists of 6000 men, who are supplied with provisions. It is supposed that Massena means to attempt the invasion of Sicily, as he has collected a number of transports.

By private accounts from Rome, which have gained belief, the Pope (Pius VII.) will resign, and Carninal Fesch be placed in his stead and take his residence at Avignon; but the Estates of the Pope will be annexed to the kingdom of Italy.

They say likewise that the kingdom of Etruria will be a federative State of France.

Captain Johnson, who arrived at New-York, informs, that a law was passed prohibiting all American vessels fitting out in England for the coast of Africa; and that no British vessels would be allowed to sell their slaves in the United States.

DOMESTIC.—*Haverhill, (Mass.)*—The remarkable phenomenon, "The great Solar Eclipse," was observed in this town. Such an eclipse has not taken place since the first settlement of New-England, and but few do we find recorded in the annals of astronomy. The most remarkable eclipse previous to this was observed at Boston, June 24th, 1778, "when the sun was 11 digits eclipsed; undoubtedly many now living can remember it, it being four days before the Monmouth battle." In the year 1808, April 19th, there will be a small eclipse, about 2 digits. In the year 1809, April 14th, there will be another, 3 digits at Boston. In the year 1811, Sept. 17th, a large eclipse may be expected, of 10 digits, between 12 and 1 o'clock, P. M. and end at 4.

"In the year 1820 another great eclipse will happen at London, about 10 digits. It will be no more visible till 1874, when 5 digits will be obscured. In 1928, the passage of the centre will be in the expansum, and 2 digits eclipsed at London, Oct. 21st; and about the year 2090 the whole penumbra will be worn off, whence no more returns of this eclipse will happen for 10,000 years. From these remarks we gather, that a thousand years will complete the whole terrestrial phenomena of any single eclipse.

"Eclipses among the ancients were considered as disastrous, and as indication of some revolution in physical things; but thanks to the progression of science, that whilst we are exempted from the slavery of superstition, we are enabled to predict them with certainty, point out the causes of their aspects and period of their return."

Wiscasset, (Maine) June 17.—A shock of an Earthquake was sensibly felt in this town on the 5th inst. in the morning about 7 o'clock. We learn that the same shock was felt in the neighbouring towns.

The Season.—The season has been uncommon. In the Northern States cold, and in the Southern States dry, but no prevalent sickness is notified. A fever is mentioned among the Illinois, fatal to their young females. In North-Carolina they suffered by the drought, but had plentiful rains about the middle of last month. The changes of the atmosphere have been great. At Portsmouth, N. H. on the 5th June, at 2 P. M. the Thermometer was at 86 in the shade, and the wind changed suddenly from S. W. to N. E. and at half past 2 the mercury fell 20 degrees, and at sunset was 36 degrees lower than at P. M. By a table kept for rain, in three years successively, at Windsor, Nova-Scotia, by Rev. W Cochrane, Resident of King's College, in 1794 the whole rain was 24,245—in 1795, 29,009—in 1796, 26,441; giving a mean quantity of 26,565 inches.

[*Salem Register.*]

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in Frederick Town, to his correspondent in Baltimore.

"Nothing new here—all the talk is harvest is approaching fast—no more said about caterpillars, and I am happy that the report of that insect having been so destructive, is unfounded. They have done some partial injury to a few individuals, but by no means so much so as has been related. Crops generally are very promising indeed."

A large quarry of marble stone, of different colours, has lately been discovered on the plantation of Mr. John Hendel, near Harper's ferry. It is equal to the marble of Italy, or that of any other country.

[*Alexandria paper.*]

A machine has lately been invented by Calvin Whiting and Eli Parsons, of Dedham, (Mass.) for working Tin Plate into the various kinds of work necessary for use.

Although it is simple in its construction, and not very expensive, and of course can require but little repair, yet it facilitates and saves three-fourths of the labour necessary in any other mode of working Tin plate before practised, and at the same time performs the work in general much neater and more thoroughly than can be done by hands.

It turns, locks, and grooves, all the seams in a vessel; it turns the edges and completes the operation of wiring by closing the edge round the wire, forming the vessel at the same time.

It cuts bottoms of all sizes, it turns and locks the bottoms and sides together, closing them perfectly tight, &c.

The whole machine is calculated to move with a drum wheel, which may be put in motion by water, steam, horse, man, or any other power; the rollers that perform the different operations above described, will make from ninety to one hundred and twenty revolutions in a minute.

Chillicothe, May 24.—It is feared that ere this a battle has been fought between the Americans and Spaniards at Nachitoches, what will be the result we know not—but have understood, great preparations are making by the citizens to aid and succour the efforts of their countrymen against the Spaniards.

We learn from Kentucky and Cincinnati, that the *army worm* has destroyed the wheat, and rye, and corn, in those places, as well as in Ross and the adjoining counties.

Interments in the different burial grounds of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia—from June the 14th to the 21st, Adults 18—Children 19—Total 37.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

B.'s stanzas, and

GLEANER, No. 2, are intended for our next.

H. is under consideration.

PUBLISHED BY JOSEPH RAKESTRAW, NO. 84, NORTH FRONT-STREET,

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Subscriptions will also be received at BENJAMIN JOHNSON'S *Book-Store, No. 249, Market-Street, Philadelphia, and by*

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